



Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency

*"Dedicated to meeting the wastewater and reclamation needs
of our member agencies, while protecting the environment."*

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February 6, 2007

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Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Ms. Billington:

SUBJECT: Proposition 50 Additional Grant Awards

The Salinas River Valley is one of the richest agricultural regions of the world. Unfortunately the need for water to supply much of the country's produce has resulted in extensive seawater intrusion. Recently, the use of recycled water for irrigation of food crops over the last nine years has greatly reduced this seawater intrusion.

Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) has submitted a Proposition 50 Application which would support, in part, the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP). This innovative new project includes improving dam safety while providing additional water into the Salinas River to support the return of fish and to stop seawater intrusion. This project is important for the environment, for the water resources of the County, and for the viability of the over \$3 billion per year in produce from Monterey County.

Our agency strongly supports the issuing of a grant to MCWRA for this important project.

Sincerely,

/S/ Joe Russell
Joe Russell
Chair, Board of Directors